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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Hisakazu TANAKA et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned
(§ 371 of international application No. PCT/JP/01/06428)

Filed: March 22, 2002

For: WATER ABSORBENT MATERIAL AND ABSORBENT ARTICLE
USING THE SAMEPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTCommissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 22, 2002

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the filing fees of the above application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A) Furthermore, in order to solve the problems described above, water absorbent materials comprising a copolymer of either a sulfoalkyl (meth)acrylate or an acrylamide (Japanese Unexamined Patent Application, First Publication, No. Hei 10-81714) or a copolymer of a nonionic monomer and acrylic acid (Japanese Unexamined Patent Application, First Publication, No. Hei 9-143210) have also been proposed. However, although these water absorbent materials offer an improved water absorption of water which contains salts, the water absorption for pure water or water with only small amounts of ions actually decreases, and the initial water absorption speed is also slow.